(b) if so, whether Government are going to take any step to promote its use; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The compost prepared from "Jalkumbhi" (water hyacinth) is rich in nitrogen compared to other composts. Its co-composting with other organic residues and rock phosphate is recommended for better results for enhancing agricultural yield.

The Government is promoting the use of various sources of organic manures including compost from water hyacinth as a supplementary source of nutrients. The promotion of compost from ruban bio-degradable waste is being promote under the scheme of Balanced and integrated use of fertilizers.

Effect of Pre-Monsoon Rains on Kharif Crops

2084. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the below normal rains in the pre-monsoon season and the delay in the onset of South-West monsoon had affected sowing of early kharif cereals and rice;

(b) if so, whether this would have any adverse impact on production of these grains; and

(c) if so, the likely fall in the production of these grains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The onset of south-west monsoon was delayed by 7—10 days in some parts of the country. Since optimum sowing time of each

crop spans between 15—20 days, the delay of 7—10 days in sowing will not have any significant impact on production of kharif crops.

Development of Agriculture in Arid Zones

2085. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the arid zones in various States;

(b) the scheme presently being implemented for the development of agriculture in those arid zones; and

(c) the details of allocation made to various States during the last three years for the development of agriculture in those arid zones?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The hot and cold Arid Zones are located in the States of Rajasthan, Gujarat, Haryana, Punjab, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir respectively.

(b) Several ongoing programmes, such as National Watershed Development Project for Rainfed Areas (NWDPRA), Soil Conservation for enhancing productivity of degraded lands in the Catchments of River Valley Project and Flood Prone River (RVP & FPR) of the Ministry of Agriculture and Desert Development Programme (DDP), Drought Prone Area Programme (DPAP) and Integrated Wasteland Development Programme (IWDP) of Ministry of Rural Development are in operation for the development of agriculture in those zones.

(c) The details of allocation made to various States are given in the enclosed statement.